

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 /015 W
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R 201200Z APR 76
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4074

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0759

EYES ONLY FOR EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, AID AA/ASIA ARTHUR
GARDINER AND AA/SER CHARLES MANN
E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PFOR, EAID, TH

SUBJ: STAFFING OF USOM

1. I UNDERSTAND ROGER ERNST MAY BE LEAVING BANGKOK ON REASSIGN-
MENT THIS SUMMER. HE HAS DONE A SUPERB JOB HERE IN RESTRUCTURING
AND REFOCUSING THE AID PROGRAM. HE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED, BUT
I CAN FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT HE WOULD WANT TO MOVE ON TO SOMETHING
MORE CHALLENGING.

2. ROGER'S DEPARTURE WILL GIVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO BRING
THE TOP USOM STAFF MORE INTO LINE WITH THE SIZE AND NATURE OF
OUR AID PROGRAM AND THE CURRENT THAI POLITICAL SITUATION. I
BELIEVE WE SHOULD BE HEADING TOWARD A CONFIGURATION IN WHICH
A SENIOR ECONOMIC OFFICER FROM EITHER STATE OR AID WOULD HANDLE
ALL U.S. ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES. AS A FIRST STEP I SUGGEST THE
POSITION OF DIRECTOR AND DEPUTY DIRECTOR, BOTH FSR-1'S BE
MERGED. THE PROGRAM OFFICER, WHO COVERS THE ENTIRE RANGE OF
USOM ACTIVITIES ANYWAY, COULD SERVE AS ACTING DIRECTOR IN THE
ABSENCE OF THE DIRECTOR. THIS WOULD REDUCE LAYERING, SAVE
MONEY AND BRING THE TOP USOM STAFFING MORE INTO LINE WITH THE
CURRENT SITUATION HERE AND THE RECONFIGURATION OF THE REST OF
THE MISSION.

3. AS REPLACEMENT FOR ROGER IN THE COMBINED NEW POSITION I
STRONGLY RECOMMEND JIM WILLIAMS, THE PRESENT DEPUTY. JIM
KNOWS THE PROGRAM AND HAS UNUSUALLY PRODUCTIVE RELATIONS WITH
THE RTG. I HAVE FULL CONFIDENCE THAT HE WOULD RUN THE TYPE
OF PROGRAM WHICH WOULD MEET MY NEEDS AS WELL AS THOSE OF
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WASHINGTON. I HOPE WE CAN REACH AGREEMENT ON THIS QUICKLY SO

THERE IS NO HIATUS WHEN ROGER LEAVES.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

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